

What is Claimed Is:

- 1        1. A connector for interconnecting a bare optical fiber to optical equipment, said  
2 connector comprising:
  - 3              a ferrule having an axial bore and a terminal end; and
  - 4              a reservoir positioned at said terminal end and in optical communication with said
  - 5 axial bore.
- 1        2. The connector assembly of claim 1, further comprising a predetermined amount of  
2 optical coupling fluid within said reservoir.
- 1        3. The connector assembly of claim 2, further comprising an optical fiber positioned  
2 within said axial bore and extending into said reservoir.
- 1        4. The connector assembly of claim 3, further comprising an adapter including a  
2 through bore, wherein said ferrule coaxially extends within said through bore.
- 1        5. The connector assembly of claim 3, wherein said adapter includes a pressure foot  
2 for selectively retaining said ferrule in said through bore.
- 1        6. A connector for interconnecting a bare optical fiber to optical equipment, said  
2 connector comprising:
  - 3              a cartridge containing a predetermined quantity of optical fluid; and
  - 4              a ferrule in axial alignment with said cartridge for receiving a bare fiber passed
  - 5 through said cartridge.

1           7.     The connector of claim 6, wherein said cartridge comprises an entrance aperture,  
2     an exit aperture, and an inner chamber for housing said optical coupling fluid.

1           8.     The connector of claim 7, wherein said ferrule includes an inner post having a first  
2     end and a second end, and said first and second ends further include first and second divots  
3     formed therein, respectively, that are in optical communication with each other.

1           9.     The connector of claim 8, further comprising a sleeve releasably engaged with  
2     said cartridge and said ferrule, wherein said sleeve axially aligns said exit aperture with said first  
3     divot.

1           10.    The connector of claim 9, further comprising an end cap including an opening  
2     formed in an end thereof, wherein said cartridge extends at least partially through said opening.

1           11.    The connector of claim 10, further comprising a bulkhead housing having an axial  
2     bore engaging said second end of said inner post.

1           12.    The connector of claim 11, further comprising an interface adapted for  
2     interconnection to fiber optic patch cable and engaged with said bulkhead housing, wherein said  
3     interface includes a port extending axially therethrough.

1           13.    The connector of claim 12, further comprising a second sleeve positioned in said  
2     axial bore of said housing and in said port of said interface, wherein said second sleeve is axially  
3     aligned with said second end of said inner post.

1           14.    The connector of claim 13, wherein said end cap is threadably engaged with said  
2     bulkhead housing.

1           15.    The connector of claim 14, further including a bare fiber extending through said  
2     cartridge and in optical communication with said first divot of said ferrule.

1           16. The connector of claim 15, further including a patch cable connected to said  
2 interface and engaging said second sleeve, wherein said patch cable includes a fiber core  
3 extending through said second sleeve and in optical communication with said second divot.

1           17. A ferrule for use in an optical fiber connector, comprising:  
2                   an outer housing; and  
3                   an inner post having a first end and a second end, wherein said first and second  
4 ends further include first and second divots formed therein, respectively, that are in optical  
5 communication with each other.

1           18       The ferrule of claim 17, wherein said outer housing including defines first and  
2 second annular chambers extending around said first and second ends, respectively.

1           19.      The ferrule of claim 18, wherein said first and second annular chambers are  
2 adapted to receive first and second compression sleeves, respectively, for retaining said first and  
3 second ends of said inner post.